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Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations: cooperation between the United Nations and the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization

Cooperation between the United Nations and the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization (BSEC) was granted observer status in the General Assembly at the fifty-fourth session of the Assembly on 8 October 1999 (resolution 54/5).

The present report is submitted in compliance with resolution 55/211 of 20 December 2000 on cooperation between the United Nations and BSEC, in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Assembly at its fifty-seventh session a report on the implementation of that resolution. The report provides a brief résumé of the status of the cooperative relationship between BSEC and various United Nations organizations during 2001 and 2002. United Nations organizations, notably the Economic Commission for Europe and the United Nations Environment Programme, have entered into formal cooperation agreements with BSEC and initiated joint programmes pertaining to fields of common interest. It is recommended that such cooperation be continued and strengthened in the fields of common interest, including those identified in the cooperation agreements.

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I. Economic Commission for Europe

1. In accordance with the Cooperation Agreement between the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) and the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization (BSEC), signed in Istanbul on 2 July 2001, the two organizations agreed to cooperate in fields of joint interest with a particular focus on economic analysis and statistics, protection of the environment, sustainable energy, inland transport, trade, industry and entrepreneurship for the benefit of their common 11 member States.

2. The Economic Commission for Europe has participated in semi-annual meetings of the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of BSEC Member States and in ministerial meetings on transport and on small- and medium-scale enterprises. It has further contributed to priority projects of BSEC, inter alia, in the organization of workshops in the field of small- and medium-scale enterprises, the formulation of transport action plans, the drafting of the Ministerial Memorandum of Understanding on the Facilitation of Road Transport of Goods in the BSEC Region, the establishment of a list of priority United Nations international legal instruments in the field of transport for accession by member States and the identification of the BSEC Ring Transport Corridor. The "Comparative analysis of the Action Plans/Programmes of the Black Sea Pan-European Transport Area and BSEC" (May 2001), prepared by ECE, became an important document on ways to improve their cooperation and avoid duplication of transport activities in the region.

II. United Nations Environment Programme

3. In accordance with the Cooperation Agreement between the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and BSEC, signed in Istanbul on 20 February 2002, UNEP has undertaken to support the activities of BSEC on information exchange and the provision of information to users in BSEC member States, the creation of environmental information systems and the implementation of joint programmes for the assessment and monitoring of the environment. In the context of the Agreement, UNEP organized a Regional Training Seminar for Port Enforcement Officers in Constanza, Romania, from 5 to 9 November 2001.

III. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

4. Subsequent to the BSEC document, entitled "Project proposal on institutional strengthening to facilitate intra- and interregional agricultural trade among BSEC member States", drafted in consultation with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in 2001, consultations are continuing between the two organizations on the funding of technical assistance through FAO for the enhancement of regional food security.

IV. Conclusion

5. **The Secretary-General has undertaken concrete steps towards the implementation of resolution 55/211 in respect of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization, including consultations with that organization and the initiation of joint programmes pertaining to fields of common interest to both organizations.**

V. Recommendation

6. **The Secretary-General, as well as specialized agencies and other organizations and programmes of the United Nations, inter alia, ECE, UNEP and FAO, should continue to hold consultations and to formulate and implement joint programmes pertaining to fields of common interest to BSEC and the relevant United Nations organizations, including the implementation of the aforementioned Cooperation Agreements.**